

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 2, 3 and 10-14 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 4 and 6 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1 and 4-9 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. By way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of "objected to" (and now canceled) claim 3, and its intervening claim 2, whereby presently pending independent claim 1 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 3. Claims 4, 5, 8 and 9 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and thus those claims are also now in allowable form. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, presently pending claim 6 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claims 6 and 7 (which depends from claim 6) are now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to those claims.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,222,923 to Schwenk in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,269,257 to Kitaya; claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwenk in view of Kitaya and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,155,611 to Wajs et al.; and claims 10, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwenk in view of Wajs et al. Due to the amendments made to claim 1 so that it now includes the features of “objected to” claim 3 (and its intervening claim 2), and due to the cancellation of claims 2 and 10-14, these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.25. Additionally, charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 through § 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Phillip J. Articola

William T. Ellis
Registration No. 26,874

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Customer No.: 22879
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819